

City of Alexandria, Virginia 301 King Street, Suite 2300 Alexandria, Virginia 22314



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Dear City of Alexandria Multifamily Property Owner and/or Manager:

Today I am reaching out to the owners and managers of multifamily rental properties in the City of Alexandria, Virginia to again ask for your assistance in preventing the eviction of Alexandrians affected by COVID-19. As I am sure you have heard, the order preventing evictions for public health reasons issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has been extended until October 3, 2021 for communities that are experiencing substantial and high community spread of COVID-19, including the City of Alexandria.

I thank you again for all you are doing and have done to keep residents of your properties safe, healthy and housed during the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), and for your assistance to residents in finding funds for emergency rental assistance. While we recognize the burden that has been placed on you during this difficult time, we would like to ask you to continue to work with us to prevent the loss of housing, which we believe can be done while still mitigating the financing impact to you. While evictions may proceed when the City community spread rate for the COVID virus is reduced, I ask that you consider holding off on proceeding with the eviction process for nonpayment of rent if a tenant is in the process of applying for rental assistance funds. If you need help from the City checking on the status of rental assistance fund applications, please call the Office of Housing at 703-746-4990.

City staff and the Alexandria Eviction Prevention Program are collaborating to ensure that all efforts to access all available sources of rental assistance are made. City staff is meeting with renters at various City offices and will also work with delinquent residents onsite at your property. To arrange for this service, please contact the Office of Housing at 703.746.4990. There are many sources of rental assistance for households unable to pay rent due to the pandemic. Using the State government's program as an example, Virginia Housing is offering resources to help tenants get current all the way back to April 2020, including fees and charges that may have accumulated, with up to 15 months of rental assistance provided.

The Alexandria team is experienced in navigating the application process and is committed to finding solutions for all residents: we can assist property owners and managers in accessing state and/or local funds for rental assistance on behalf of residents in these circumstances, as well as coordinate state and local sources for unresolved applications. Below is a summary of what various programs offer.

The Virginia Rent Relief Program (RRP) provides rent relief to both renters and landlords:

- RRP provides eligible renters with assistance to cover rent payments past due beginning April 1, 2020. Renters can submit applications <u>online</u> or they can call 703.962.1884 for more information. You can view or download a flyer (in English or Spanish) to distribute to renters.
- Landlords can apply on behalf of tenants to receive financial assistance for past-due and current rental payments. Landlords can submit applications <u>online</u>, email rentrelief@virginiahousing.com, or call the City of Alexandria Office of Housing at 703.746.4990 for eligibility assistance.

The City's Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS) Office of Community Services (OCS) also provides rental assistance to eligible households facing a housing crisis or homelessness. Residents can call the

DCHS Customer Call Center at 703.746.5700 or text 703.346.5599. They also have other emergency assistance that can enable households to meet other critical needs for assistance.

The Office of Housing also offers additional support to landlords and tenants, including an Eviction Prevention and Housing Stability Toolkit, information on affordable housing opportunities, Fair Housing Law Training, and landlord-tenant mediation services. Visit alexandriava.gov/Housing for more information or call 703.746.4990.

Alexandria has always been known as a community where neighbors take care of neighbors. Thank you for considering this request and for continuing to work with us. I appreciate your understanding that we are all in this together, and together we can offer housing stability while Alexandria continues to recover.

Sincerely,

Justin Wilson

Mayor